

**The 95th Anniversary of the Wright Brothers' First Flight
December 17, 1903 - December 17, 1998**

"I am all of them and more"

A skit for elementary and middle school children, written by Sandra J. Campbell, FAA
(president & founder, Purple Jellybean Productions, Inc.)

- Characters: Early aviators.
Portrayed by students of varying ethnic, cultural and racial backgrounds.
- Props: Model airplanes (paper, balsa wood, etc)
Toy helicopter (early model was similar to a whirlygig)
Montgolfier balloon (brightly colored)
Kites
Bicycle (or small replica)
White scarves
Goggles
Helmets (or ski caps with goggles on top)
(NOTE: Props can also be large pictures drawn by students of these items)

Background: The same spirit that lived in Wilbur and Orville Wright, also lives in each of us. Each individual is born into this world with great potential. Using the Wright Brothers and other early aviation pioneers as examples, we, too, can fulfill our greatest dreams.

Script:

Students 1 & 2: (Both holding a toy helicopter together)

- #1: "I am Wilbur Wright. I am the first born of Milton and Susan Wright.
I was born April 16, 1867.
- #2: "I am Orville Wright. I am the 5th child of Milton and Susan Wright, and
the younger brother of Wilbur, Katharine, Lorin and Reuchlin
(pronounced ROOSH-lin). I was born August 19, 1871.
- #1: (Wilbur speaking) - Orville and I used to love to watch the birds fly and
we built box kites.
- #2: (Orville speaking) - It was this toy helicopter that our father gave us that
got us interested in flight.
- #1: (Wilbur) - In our day, one of the most popular means of transportation was
the bicycle.
- #2: (Orville) - We grew up in Dayton, Ohio, and made a living building,
racing, and repairing bicycles.

- #1: (Wilbur) - Our first airplane was made of bicycle parts.
- I #2: (Orville) - We always liked inventing things. When I was in high school, built my own printing press and Wilbur and I printed a newspaper.
- We had a lot of experiments that didn't work before we finally made that first successful flight.
- #1: (Wilbur) - That's why it's so important to never give up.
- #2: (Orville) - That's right, big brother. To be successful, you have to keep on trying.
- #1: (Wilbur) - Many people followed in our footsteps as aviation pioneers.
- #2: (Orville) - It's hard to believe how far aviation has come in 95 years.

Optional

- Student #3 "My name is Paul Lawrence Dunbar. I was the only colored boy in Orville Wright's high school class--Central High School in Dayton, Ohio, Class of 1890. I became a famous poet. I always knew Wilbur and Orville were special. They also believed in freedom for all people to be whatever they wanted to be. They were my best friends during a time in our history when it was not popular for coloreds and whites to be friends."
- Student #4: "My name is Blanche Stewart Scott. I was the first woman of record to fly an aeroplane. I flew on September 2, 1910. That was less than seven years after the Wright Brothers made the first successful flight."
- Student #5: "My name is Raymonde de la Roche. I come from France. I was the first woman to get a pilot's license."
- Student #6: "My name is Harriet Quimby. I was also inspired by Wilbur and Orville. I was the first woman in the United States to become a licensed pilot."
- Student #7: "My name is Charles Lindbergh. I was the first person to fly across the Atlantic Ocean."
- Student #8: "My name is Anne Morrow Lindbergh, wife of Charles Lindbergh. I was the first woman to become a licensed glider pilot."
- Student #9: "My name is Bessie Coleman. I was the first African American woman to become a licensed pilot (of record). And I had to go to France to learn to

fly because no one in my own country would teach a colored woman to fly in my day.”

Student #10: “My name is Amelia Earhart. I come from Atchison, Kansas. I was one of the first women in this country to get a pilot’s license.”

Student #11: “My name is Wiley Post (wearing an eye patch). I flew around the world.”

Student #1: “We were young scientists who were willing to try anything. And we did. We read and studied the works of other scientists and inventors, such as Otto Lillienthal, Samuel Langley and Octave Chanute.

Student #2: And we built on their ideas and added a few of our own. We flew gliders. We built the first wind tunnel. Some things worked and some things didn’t. Then, finally, on a cold December morning in 1903 at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, something clicked.”

Student #1: “That’s the day my brother and I made history when our powered airplane took off on a sand dune and stayed in the air for a few brief seconds.”

Student #2: “A new chapter in history was begun with the first powered airplane flight that day.”

ALL STUDENTS: “Now that you know who we are, tell us who you are.”

Students stand (unexpectedly) in the audience or emerge from back stage, each holding a paper or balsa wood model plane or sporting some other aviation paraphernalia, pictures, etc. (kites, white scarves around the neck, helmet/goggles, jacket...):

Student #15: “I am Wilbur Wright.”

Student #16: “I am Orville Wright.”

Student #17: “I am Blance Stewart Scott”

Student #18: “I am Raymonde de la Roche”

Student #19: “I am Harriet Quimby”

Student #20: “I am Charles Lindbergh”

Student #21: “I am Anne Morrow Lindbergh”

Student #22: “I am Bessie Coleman”

Student #23: “I am Amelia Earhart”

Student #24: "I am Wiley Post" (don't forget the eye patch)

Student #25: "I am Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., Tuskegee Airmen"

Student #26: "I am John Glenn, the astronaut"

Student #27: "I am Guion Bluford, astronaut"

Student #28: "I am Sally Ride, first woman astronaut"

Student #29: "I am Christa McAuliffe, first teacher on a space mission"

Student #30: "I am Dr. Mae Jemison, first African American woman astronaut"

ALL: "I am all of them and more. I have the same great potential to be whatever I want to be. **Thank you, Wilbur and Orville!**"

NOTE TO EDUCATORS:

The Federal Aviation Administration, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and other aviation and aerospace entities have teamed up this year to reach 95,000 school children nationwide by the anniversary of the first controlled powered flight of a heavier-than-air airplane in history. On December 17, 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright made history when their airplane, the "Flyer," took off on a sand dune in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina and remained aloft for a few brief seconds. Through this skit, we hope to inspire and motivate our nation's youth to use the Wright Brothers as an example in pursuing their own academic and career goals.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Sandra J. Campbell, playwright who wrote this skit specifically for this activity, is a Management and Program Analyst in the FAA Small Airplane Directorate, located in Kansas City, Missouri. She has also written and performs a one-woman play about the first African American to become a licensed pilot (of record)--Bessie Coleman. Entitled "Follow Your Dreams"©, this monologue is a historical reenactment of a woman who achieved her goal by refusing to take "no" for an answer.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on "Follow Your Dreams," contact Sandra Campbell, Purple Jellybean Productions, (816) 313-7505. For more information about the Wright Brothers activities or other FAA Aviation Education Programs, Contact Maria Navarro, FAA Central Region Aviation Education Coordinator, (816) 426-6547, or write: FAA, ATTN: Maria Navarro (ACE-41F), 601 E. 12th Street, Kansas City, MO 64106.